

Today's News - Tuesday, March 19, 2013

- ArcSpace reports on AA Rome's new workshop coming up in May, and eyeful of Graves in Egypt.
- We lose Liddell, an architect "at the forefront of ecological building design." Pierce, the Modernist architect behind Peacock Farm, Mass., a 45-acre subdivision of stylish, affordable homes now on the National Register of Historic Places, and former Landscape Architecture Magazine editor Clay, whose "visionary approach still influences our thinking on urban planning today."
- Heathcote, Betsky, and Pollock weigh in on Ito's Pritzker: his "consistently thoughtful, radical and intriguing body of work"; "one of the greatest masters of form-making"; and his "strong sense of public responsibility."
- An "explosive" (and "leaked") RIAS report re: Glasgow's George Square "botched" competition has "brought the judges, the profession, the Incorporation and the City of Glasgow into significant disrepute."
- Saffron cheers Philly's new zoning code for Center City: "nothing terribly radical was proposed - unless you consider zoning that favors a dense, transit-oriented, tech-friendly, mixed-use downtown a radical notion."
- Koolhaas wins battle with Venice's conservationists re: "the contentious conversion" of a Grand Canal palazzo into a Benetton department store (though he has "made some significant changes to the original plans").
- Moore meanders around London's new ME Hotel: it "gives London another bizarre space. You get the feeling that Foster is trying to be a bit Starck-y at times" (sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't).
- Davidson gives (mostly) thumbs-up to Holl's sports center for Columbia University: "a rugged oddball clinging to a steep hill" that is "the architectural equivalent of the strutting and flexing that goes on in the locker rooms."
- Webb explores Morphosis's Perot Museum in Dallas: despite a few compromises, "the final design is a brilliant match for the site and the program...a triumph of bold architecture and enlightened philanthropy."
- Russell finds much to like about a Connecticut preparatory school's new environmental center by Stern that has students living and studying in a zero-energy building as they "consider the value of food scraps and the environmental impact of hair dryers."
- Birnbaum basks in the "revenge of urban agriculture: are community advocates, landscape architects and horticulturists bringing back the agropolis?" Yes (great history, too).
- Big plans by Farmers for Chicago to transform vacant lots "into thriving - and profitable - urban farms in just three years."
- An impressive list of winners of MIPIM Awards 2013.
- Call for entries: Gold Coast, Australia, Cultural Precinct Global Design Competition + 2013-14 City of Dreams Pavilion Design Competition for NYC's Governors Island.

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-- Workshop: "Form as (Dynamic) Unknown: Toward an Interactive + Smart Architecture," AA Rome Visiting School, Rome, May 9-19, 2013
-- Image Library: Michael Graves: Miramar Resort Hotel, El Gouna, Egypt

Obituary: Howard Liddell, 67: Architect at the forefront of ecological building design: ...the prime mover behind the establishment and running of SEDA, the Scottish Ecological Design Association..."Eco-minimalism – The Antidote to Eco-bling" goes against today's narrow focus on purely technical solutions...Few architects have been such keen advocates of cross-disciplinary thinking... By Chris Butters -- Gaia Group- Guardian (UK)

Obituary: Walter Pierce, Modernist Architect, 93: ...lived his last 55 years in a house he built in Peacock Farm, Mass., a 45-acre subdivision of stylish, affordable homes that he designed...In November, the development was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. -- Peirce, Pierce and Compton- New York Times

Obituary: Grady Clay, Former Landscape Architecture Magazine Editor-in-Chief, 96: ...was known for his no-nonsense, folksy reporting and passion for the environment and urban revitalization..."His visionary approach still influences our thinking on urban planning today." + 2010 Q&A with Charles A. Birnbaum [links]- American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Edwin Heathcote: Toyo Ito wins Pritzker prize: His triumph is perhaps a perfect confirmation of the beginning of the re-emergence of Japanese culture after a generation-long period of stagnation...has built a consistently thoughtful, radical and intriguing body of work...and has long been seen as a contender for the prize.- Financial Times (UK)

Aaron Betsky: Toyo Ito: Finally: ...has been one of the greatest masters of form-making for the last three decades...Whatever the Pritzker Prize jury's thinking, I am glad they finally awarded him this accolade. [slide show]- Architect Magazine

Naomi R. Pollock: At Last, Toyo Ito Wins the Pritzker: ...has made it his mission to "overcome modernism" by freeing his buildings from that movement's conventions...also has a strong sense of public responsibility. He speculates that one reason for this year's prize is his commitment to the revitalization of the earthquake- and tsunami-ravaged Tohoku region [and] the Home-for-All projects... [slide show]- Architectural Record

Explosive RIAS report exposes Gordon Matheson's interference in Glasgow's George Square competition: A leaked report points the finger at Glasgow City Council leader for derailing the international contest...the botched competition had "brought the judges, the profession, the Incorporation and the City of Glasgow into significant disrepute." -- John McAslan + Partners; Burns + Nice- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Proposed remapping of Center City land use covers much-needed ground: When Philadelphia adopted a new zoning code last year, it was like opening a Monopoly box and finding only an instruction book inside. But now...finally ready to provide...the playing board and all the pieces...nothing terribly radical was proposed - unless you consider zoning that favors a dense, transit-oriented, tech-friendly, mixed-use downtown a radical notion. By Inga Saffron- Philadelphia Inquirer

Rem Koolhaas triumphs in battle with Venice's conservationists: ...won planning for the contentious conversion of a palazzo into a Benetton department store near the Rialto Bridge on the Grand Canal...after much wrangling...has bowed to pressure...and made some significant changes to the original plans. -- OMA- BD/Building Design (UK)

ME hotel: The first hotel to be designed entirely by Foster + Partners gives London another bizarre space. A black tetrahedron at the heart...is the most arresting element of an exercise in compromise...You get the feeling that Foster is trying to be a bit Starck-y at times, and it doesn't come naturally to this once-sober practice. By Rowan Moore [images]- Observer (UK)

Jocks, Meet Artists: Steven Holl's new Campbell Sports Center for Columbia University muscles into Inwood...a rugged oddball clinging to a steep hill in upper Manhattan...Nobody would call it contextual, and yet it's the only building around that deals with the surroundings in all their jagged complexity...the architectural equivalent of the strutting and flexing that goes on in the locker rooms. By Justin Davidson- New York Magazine

Crit> Morphosis' Model Museum: Michael Webb explores the firm's first museum, the Perot Museum of Nature and Science in Dallas: Though the firm may have reined in its invention, the final design is a brilliant match for the site and the program...a triumph of bold architecture and enlightened philanthropy. [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Choate's Kids Wear Sweaters, Go Green, Eat Happy Chickens: Students at Choate Rosemary Hall preparatory school consider the value of food scraps and the environmental impact of hair dryers...living and studying in a zero-energy building, the new Kohler Environmental Center. By James S. Russell -- Robert A.M. Stern Architects [images]- Bloomberg News

From Parking Lot to Paradise - the Revenge of Urban Agriculture: are community advocates, landscape architects and horticulturists bringing back the agropolis? I have to say, yes. By Charles A. Birnbaum/The Cultural Landscape Foundation -- Mia Lehrer + Associates; SCAPE; Nelson Byrd Woltz [images, links]- Huffington Post

Emanuel Urban Farm Network: Mayor Launches New Agriculture Plan To Transform Vacant Lots: Farmers for Chicago...vacant lots on Chicago's South Side could be transformed into thriving — and profitable — urban farms in just three years. - Huffington Post

MIPIM Awards 2013: Winners announced at Cannes: ...recognises some of the best pieces of architecture within all areas of the real estate sector. -- HOK International; Baena Casamor Arquitectes; JSK international; John Mcaslan + Partners; Cebra/JDS Architects/SeARCH/Louis Paillard; Lundgaard & Tranberg; Mimarlar Workshop; RKW Rhode Kellermann Wawrowski Architekture/Städtebau/ECE architects - World Architecture News (UK)

Call for entries: Gold Coast Cultural Precinct Design Competition (international): ...up to three teams to be offered \$250,000 each to develop detailed proposals for the cultural precinct; registration deadline: April 15- City of Gold Coast, Australia

Call for entries: 2013-14 City of Dreams Pavilion Design Competition: design and construct an architectural pavilion on Governors Island; registration deadline: May 1- FIGMENT/ENYA/AIANY/SEAO NY

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